



**Statement on behalf of the Republic of South  
Africa**

**by**

**Ms Mantsho Annastacia Motsepe  
Principal State Law Adviser (International Law)**

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“Crimes Against Humanity”**

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Thank you, Chair, for giving my delegation the floor and for the opportunity to address you on this topic, the importance of which has resonated across the globe and has impacted numerous communities.

In this cluster, South Africa would like to make general comments on the draft articles on crimes against humanity. We have on numerous occasions indicated our support for the draft articles on crimes against humanity. The horrors that the vast majority of South Africa's population endured for a major part of our history as a country was due to the crime of apartheid, which is defined as a crime against humanity. It is largely due to our dark history that South Africa ardently supports that those guilty of crimes against humanity, such as the crime of apartheid, must be brought to justice.

South Africa has also on numerous occasions indicated that the draft articles are in line with the principle of complementarity, which we strongly support. States should retain control over the prosecution and punishment of offenders of international crimes. It is only when they are unable or unwilling to do so that international courts should be able to intervene.

In order to enable states to perform those responsibilities, they would require cooperation from other states, which is precisely what these draft articles seek to do. However, it is essential that the draft articles also have regard to accommodate the cultural specificities and geographical realities of each state and the legitimate concerns of Member States must not be ignored.

South Africa supports the elaboration of a convention on crimes against humanity. However, there are certain changes to the text that it would like to propose. We understand that this is not the purpose of this meeting. However, we look forward to fruitful discussions and ultimately progressing to a point where we can start making recommendations on changes to the text. Perhaps in doing so, we may also address some of the concerns of other states that would open the door for them to agree to the draft articles as well.

I thank you.